

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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report on education in Moscow. The report includes the following information:

- a. Courses in ten-year schools.
- b. Moscow University i/n Lomonosov: Courses, discrimination, and Komsomol activity.
- c. Level of mathematics training.

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50X1-HUM

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## NOTES ON EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS IN MOSCOW

### General Organization.

There is compulsory 10-year education (approximately from the ages of 7 to 17); it is divided into elementary and secondary schools, finishing with graduation examinations; then follow the various possibilities for higher educational institutions ("vuzy"), in particular the universities, the pedagogical institutes, the technical institutes, the medical institutes and the institutes of journalism and of music.

The course of study in these institutions lasts, as a rule, for five years, but sometimes four or six years. After having completed one of them and having then worked at least two years in production or teaching, one can become a post-graduate student; post-graduate studies last three years and allow the student to prepare his thesis for a master's degree.

Preparation for the competitive examinations for entrance to an institute of technology lasts from three months to a year according to the abilities of the candidate; the candidate either prepares himself or attends specialized courses.

Practically all those who complete the 10-year school succeed in passing their final exams; moreover, 10-year education is practically universal in the towns. Here is a curious case, however: Ella, who is in the 9th grade, has not set foot in school since the beginning of the new term in September, and her teachers are not sorry about it, since she was anything but a tractable pupil; she has decided to take a job in the beginning of January and to continue her studies at the University evening courses, which she considers more interesting than school.

The programs are uniform, with the exception of the choice of foreign language: One can elect either French, English or German. Italian and Spanish are no longer taught, nor are the dead languages; generally, only one language is taught in each school.

Here is the syllabus of the 7th and 10th grades of School #25 (Tamara):

	<u>7th Form</u>	<u>10th Form</u>
Russian	4 lessons	1 lesson
Literature	2 -	4 -
French	3 -	3 -
History	2 -	5 -
Geography	2 -	
Algebra	4 -	2 -
Geometry	2 -	2 -
Trigonometry		2 -
Physics	3 -	5 -
Chemistry	2 -	3 -
Electrotechnics		2 -
Drawing		1 -
Physical education		1 -
Military training		1 -
	24	32

(Every lesson lasts 45 minutes).

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50X1-HUM

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50X1-HUM

Owing to lack of space, there are two daily shifts: certain classes attend school in the morning, others in the afternoon. The studies are co-educational for all age groups. A uniform is compulsory and is certainly more stylish and cleaner than the clothes the pupils would wear if they were free to choose; it is also cheaper.

**French and Mathematics.**

Here is the official program of the French language for the 10th grade:

1. Vocabulary and style. Essential differences between the spoken and the written style. Vocabulary of 2600 words.
2. Grammar.
  - a. Morphology. Review: use of the verbs "avoir, être, aller, venir" as auxiliary verbs; meaning and formation of the conditional and subjunctive; use of the present and past participle, the gerund and the infinitive. Meaning and formation of the passive form. Use of possessive, demonstrative, personal, and relative pronouns. Forms of nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs.
  - b. Syntax. Review: subordinate clauses. Forms of the predicate, subject, object, attribute, and the circumstantial object; role of the prepositions. Means of intensification in a clause.
3. Phonetics. Review.
4. Rules of Reading. Review.
5. Spelling. Review.

As in the preceding classes, literature is not taught; this probably explains the pupils' replies given below.

There are four French lessons per week in the 5th and 6th grades, and in subsequent grades, three.

Mathematics include inter alia:

In the 8th grade: Notions of limits (exercises without theoretical proofs), progressions, logarithms, slide rule, Arcsin functions, arcsin, etc....

In 10th grade: combinations and permutations, Newton's binomials, complex numbers (exercises, trigonometric form, geometric interpretation, division of polynomials, division by "x-a".)

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50X1-HUM

- 4 -

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50X1-HUM

Tamara's 10th grade.

The class-room is bright, the walls decorated with newspapers (Pravda, Humanité), with quotations from Marx, Lenin, etc., relating to the teaching of languages, as well as with letters written by Chinese people.

50X1-HUM

Reforms.

The XXI Congress is to discuss the educational reform, about which one hears quite diverse reports. For instance, one hears that compulsory schooling will be reduced to 8 years again (one realizes that it is impossible to have all Soviet people attend such extended courses) and that there will be three additional years of optional study instead. On the other hand, all the pupils will have to do some manual labor half a day per week.

It is also planned to compel young people to work for two years in production, either before entering the University or during the first two years at the University; the best pupils will perhaps be exempt. Finally, there is some talk of post-graduate study being abolished.

Generally speaking, this simple system of education - though somewhat cut off from practical life, as Khrushchev says - has proved successful, since illiteracy has practically disappeared from the towns.

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MOSCOW UNIVERSITY (M.U.)

Moscow University, which has recently celebrated its bicentenary, is located in both an old building in the center

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50X1-HUM

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- 5 -

50X1-HUM

of town, and in the imposing new building erected between 1949 and 1953 on the Lenin Hills (formerly the Sparrow Hills), on a site where there were still fields and huts in 1949. It bears the name of Lomonosov, who founded it, as well as the Order of Lenin and the Red Banner of Socialist Labor.

Six thousand persons live in the new buildings: students, post-graduates, and participants in foreign congresses. Ten thousand others come there to attend courses - Muscovites and students who live in other university buildings; finally, six thousand attend the correspondence courses.

### Recruiting.

The chief selection takes place at the time of entrance. The pupils who graduate from secondary schools have to pass rather difficult competitive examinations; post-graduate students participate in the correction of these exams. The examinations in January and June of each year are virtually a formality: nearly everyone completes the University in five years.

[redacted] social origin of the students [redacted] the state does not publish any statistics on the subject. Judging from externals, however, there are very few children of peasants or workers; on the other hand [redacted] recruitment of such students was much more widespread in 1947 than it is now, despite the fact that a certain number of places are reserved each year for students of modest origin. [redacted] the Jews complain that they are being discriminated against in the competitive examinations. Finally, [redacted] entrance to M.U. has been consistently closed, since the war, to all the inhabitants of the districts that were occupied by the Germans.

50X1-HUM

Note: The stipend for students of the first two years (300 rubles) is patently too small to make ends meet [redacted]

50X1-HUM

[redacted] "Everyone is being helped by his family." Moreover, a stipend is not automatically granted to everyone; one must pass all examinations and one's parents must not earn more than a certain maximum.

### General organization.

The University is divided into the following faculties: mechanics and mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, philosophy (including psychology), history, geography, literature, philology, journalism, economics. During the first two years the students have to attend a large number of compulsory lessons (thirty 45-minute lessons in mathematics); during the third and fourth year there

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50X1-HUM

- 5 - **CONFIDENTIAL**

[redacted] 50X1-HUM

is an ever-increasing number of special optional courses, as well as seminars, while the fifth year is devoted almost entirely to preparation of the "diploma", which is generally straight research work, and can be a small thesis in the case of the most gifted students.

Nearly all students are members of the Komsomol [redacted]

50X1-HUM

[redacted] everyone wants to join." Joining involves a certain amount of social work: agitation at plants, manual labor on certain Saturdays or Sundays at a nearby kolkhoz or at construction sites (housing, subway), work on the virgin lands in summer and, in general, participation in the harvest in the newly cultivated regions of North Kazakhstan. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

[redacted] As regards work on the virgin lands [redacted] student [redacted] are quite satisfied with it, since it permits them to find out about distant regions and to bring home considerable savings - for instance, 1000 rubles for one month's work.

Candidates for post-graduate study have to pass difficult competitive examinations (there are about one tenth as few post-graduate students as there are regular students each year - in mathematics, for instance, 25 post-graduates to 250 students); moreover, their records are examined by the Party and the Komsomol, who take into account their social activities. [redacted]

50X1-HUM

When an individual embarks upon post-graduate study, he is closely guided by the professor who has already helped him with his diploma. The three years are devoted, in general, to the preparation of a thesis; during the first 18 months one must, however, pass a certain number of examinations in one's speciality (in math - three or four) with professors of one's own choosing, and examinations in Marxist philosophy. Apart from this, the student has to attend only a few seminars, where he expounds the views of specialists - and when necessary, his own views - on the given subject.

In my opinion, the excellently organized system of post-graduate study has made it possible to produce the great number of specialists in all fields who so favorably impress foreigners.

#### Openings.

After five years at the university one can enter higher-school teaching; for this purpose there are pedagogical

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[redacted] 50X1-HUM

**CONFIDENTIAL**

- 7 -

50X1-HUM

courses during the fourth year. Secondary school teachers, however, are being increasingly recruited from the pedagogical institutes. After graduation from the University, most students enter a research institute of the University or of the Academy of Sciences (there are no others in the U.S.S.R.)

After completing post-graduate work, one can enter a research institute with the title of Scientific Assistant, or one can enter higher-school teaching where, after two years, one becomes a lecturer ("dotsent"). In any case, the thesis defended at the end of the post-graduate years (not everyone defends a thesis) confers the title of "candidate." After defending a second thesis one becomes a "doctor," and after a few years of teaching, a "professor."

### Military Service.

The students at the University and at all other higher educational institutions are, to all intents and purposes, exempted from the three years' military service; they get military training during their university years (close order drill, manual of arms; [redacted] a group of girls taking rifles apart in a corridor), plus two or three months in camp during vacations; they become officers if they are admitted to the examinations. People like Henri who prove lacking in the necessary abilities, are declared "inept." A general directs the military training at M.U.

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

### Foreigners.

[redacted] the USSR presently accepts 12,000 foreign students per year [redacted]. The majority come from China [redacted] (400 or 500 [redacted] at M.U.); next are the people's democracies (the number of Poles has decreased considerably in the past two years).

50X1-HUM

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### Training in Mathematics.

This has not undergone [redacted] changes [redacted] for example, the theory of wholes, topology, topologic vectorial spaces, are not systematically taught. Moreover, the problems put to the students are, on the whole, simple applications of the course; they ignore the type of problems [redacted] on competitive examinations for entrance to the major schools and - all the more so - for admission to the staffs of the universities.

50X1-HUM

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The Gorky Library at M.U. is well supplied with foreign works. Foreign books are not sold in bookstores; on the other hand, much is being translated. Dozens of mathematics books in foreign languages are being translated every year; the translation of a chapter from Bourbaki (General Topology) has just been published.

(5) The Chinese, who enjoy, in this particular respect, the advantage of maintaining no diplomatic relations, simply reproduce most foreign books. It must be added that the students - even those who live at M.U. - waste a great deal of time: long lines, endless discussions, games of chess, evening dances.... And this applies to all specialities; as a rule, students go to bed very late because they go to see each other, and in the mornings M.U. is nearly empty until 10 o'clock; lectures do not begin until 10 o'clock.

50X1-HUM

### Syllabus of Students in Mathematics

#### 1st Year -

Analytical geometry	(Lectures: 2 of 3/4 h. each
Advanced algebra	(Labs : 2
Analysis	Lectures: 4
	Labs : 4
Foreign language	6
History of the Party	4
Physical education	2 + 2 optional

#### 2nd year -

Advanced algebra	Lectures: 2
Differential equations	Lectures: 2
	Labs : 2
Differential geometry	Lectures: 2
Analysis	Lectures: 4
	Labs : 2
Mechanics	Lectures: 2
	Labs : 2
Physics	Lectures: 2
Foreign language	: 2
History of the Party	4
Special courses	2
Physical education	2 + 2 optional
Military training	2

#### 3rd year -

Analysis	Lectures: 2
Physics	Lectures: 2
Probability	Lectures: 2
Functions of complex variables	: 2
Mechanics	Lectures: 2
	Labs : 2

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50X1-HUM



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- 9 -

50X1-HUM

Special courses and seminars	4
More personal labs	4
Political economics	2
Military training	4
Passive defense (M.V.O.)	2

**4th year -**

Equations of partial derivatives	Lectures	2
	Labs	2
Special courses and seminars		6
Calculating machines		2
Theoretical physics		2
History of mathematics		2
Pedagogy		4
More personal labs		2
Dialectical materialism		2
Political economics		2
Military training		4

**5th year -**

History of mathematics	2
Special courses and seminars	6
Preparation of the diploma	18
Historical materialism	2

**Regulations - Physical Plant**

M.U. has 6,000 comfortable rooms, with two tables, a bookcase, a poster and a radio set with only one frequency (a simple plug-in loudspeaker, to be more exact). The rooms are intended for one person, but are often occupied by two; there is/wash-stand, a shower and a W.C. for every block of two rooms. On every floor there is a telephone that is free for all calls within the city (so that calls are many and long.)

A sanitation committee checks the cleanliness of the rooms from time to time and puts a grade (based on "5", as usual) on the bulletin board; the Chinese always get 5, the Russians and other Europeans 3 or 4, sometimes 2. In principle, there is a superintendent (dezhurnaya) and charwomen for every floor; many floors, however, have gone over to self-service: the inhabitants clean the corridors and the kitchen and answer the telephone themselves.

Entrance to M.U. is strictly regulated by permit; this, incidentally, leads to trading (one can obtain a "propusk" through certain pensioners who have ways of obtaining them). In principle, one cannot pass from one zone to the other without showing his "propusk"; fortunately, the "dezhurnayas" are often quite lax about this.

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50X1-HUM

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- 10 -

50X1-HUM

The students who live at M.U. may invite guests (the Muscovites on Saturdays and Sundays only) by submitting a form in advance; visitors leave their papers at the entrance for the entire time of their visit, and at midnight they are notified by phone that it's time to leave. The entrance doors are not locked at night; on the other hand, the doors of the interior stairs are locked, and one has to wait for the elevator even when going to the next floor.

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50X1-HUM